

Lives and Characters
Of the Dutchess of Marlborough's
Four DAUGHTERS,

viz. The Dutchess of Mountague,
The Countess of Bridgewater,
The Countess of Sunderland, and
The Lady Visc. Ryalton.



Printed by R. Newcomb, in Wine Office Court
in Fleetstreet, 1710.

B  L

L
am
of
Co
no
suc
dis
suc
our
by
wh
rea

T H E
Lives and Characters,
&c.

AS Accounts have been given in print of the Illustrious *Parents* of these four Heroines, the Duke and Dutches of *Marlborough*, so it may not be amiss to let the Publick into the knowledge of what Virtues the Daughters are likewise Conspicuous for, especially since they are not only Eminent for being descended from such Princely Progenitors, but particularly distinguish'd by their Alliance in *Marriage* to such Families as make a particular Figure in our *English* Annals. And here I must pass by the Rights of *Primogeniture*, and begin with the Youngest of the four Sisters, by reason of her taking Place of the other Three,

on account of her Husband's Rank and high Quality, who is the Lady *MART CHURCHILL*, now the most Noble Consort to his Grace *John* Lord Duke of *Mountague*. A Lady that has not only all the Advantages of Youth and Beauty to make her an Ornament of her Sex, but is Mistress of those Acquirements which it is not in Nature's Power to bestow, and who after the Chief of our *English* Nobility, in particular the D—— of G—— had sigh'd in vain for her, was happily consign'd over to the Arms of her present Possessor, very young, when the Duke and she could scarce make up 30 Years between 'em. This Union between the two Illustrious Houses of *Mountague* and *Marlborough* was compleated about four years since, in the year 1706, and has produc'd three Children, the last of which the Lady Dutches laid in of during her Father-in-Law's Sickness, of which he died; so that she saw herself possess'd of an Heir and a prodigious Estate at one time, the value of the latter being computed at 28000 *l.* per *Annum*; a greater Income than many Sovereign Princes now living are arriv'd at. She is now in the Nineteenth year of her Age, and her Husband in the One and twentieth; who has made it his choice (while others of our

our Nobility lead inglorious Lives at home) to serve as a Voluntier, in pursuit of Fame abroad, under the Conduct of his Father-in-Law the Great Duke of *Marlborough* ; and is gone with such an Equipage to the Camp as will very much add to the Reputation of the *English* Ability and Grandeur.

The Third Sister, who must be the second in Precedence, for the Reasons afore-mentioned, is the Lady *ELIZABETH*, Consort to the Right Honourable *Scroop* Earl of *Bridgewater* (a Name as eminently Distinguish'd for Honour and Loyalty, as her own is for Valour) by whom she has had several Children of both Sexes, and with whom she lives a Life which very few lead, that are so nearly Allied to such whose great Estates and high Birth fix 'em above the Censure of the World. In short, my Lady *Bridgewater* has all the Pleasures of the Court without being tainted with the Vices of it, and has the happiness of being caress'd and belov'd like an *English Gentleman's Wife*, not slighted and neglected like a *Nobleman's* ; and as she stands possess'd of every Charm to endear and recommend her to the best of Husbands, so is he Master of that natural Temper and studied Acquirements, as will always give him the Esteem and Affections of the best of Wives. The

The Lady that takes the third Place, tho' the second in Birth, is *ANNE*, Wife to *Charles* Earl of *Sunderland*, late Secretary of State, who discharg'd that high Trust with such Fidelity, as to induce her Majesty when she gave him his *Quietus*, to offer him a Pension of 3000 *l. per Annum*; which he generously refus'd, by saying, *If he could not serve the Publick, he would not plunder it*; and which is an instance of Continnence rarely to be found amongst Courtiers. As it is not in the power of Words to set this excellent Person, who is the Pride of her Sex, in a true Light, so I shall say no more than that she is not only the principal *Toast* in Town and Country where Beauty comes in competition, and the very Mirrour by which the Court-Ladies dress themselves by, but has been celebrated by the immortal Pen of the Lord *Hallifax*, who has left such Lines behind him at *Altrop* her Country Seat, in her praise, as will, if possible, outlive the Memory of her Perfections, or her Heroical Father's Actions, that Time it self must give place to, and must endure to all Ages. She is one of the principal Ladies of the Queen's Bed-chamber, and stands very fair for being *Groom of the Stole* to her Majesty, upon the resignation of the
Golden

Golden Key by her Mother the Lady Dutchesse of *Marlborough*, who is said to be willing to relinquish that important Office upon those Terms; and has brought her Illustrious Husband several Children into the World, of whom only two are surviving, the Lord *Spencer*, and the Lady *Anne*, who had the Queen for her Godmother.

The fourth and last, tho' the Eldest of these four Noble Sisters, is the Lady *HENRIETTA*, Married to the Lord Viscount *Ryalton*, Eldest Son and Heir Apparent to *Sidney* Earl of *Gordolphin*, and Lord High Treasurer of *England*, by whom she has had a numerous Issue, that will make amends for the Duke her Father's great loss in the Death of his presumptive Heir, the Marquis of *Blandford*, and on whose eldest Son the Dukedome of *Marlborough*, with all his Grace's Titles and Estates must descend by Act of Parliament, in which it is specified, *That in default of Issue Male from his own Body, his eldest Daughter's Children are to succeed, her Husband being to be first possess'd of them, as sole Executor by Right of his Lady.* To account for the prodigious Riches that in all probability must fall to her or her Children, both from her own, or Lord's Father's decease, would tire the Pen of an able Arithmetician;

metician; I shall therefore dismiss my Reader when I have told him, that as my Lord *Ryalton* has all the solidity of Judgment that is conspicuous in the Noble Lord from whom he is immediately descended, so the Lady is not without those innate Virtues, and that sweetness of Temper which her Father is famous for; and if doing Works of Charity, providing for the Necessitous, encouraging Arts and Sciences, and acting all the good Offices of Life, are things that will hand down those that practice 'em to the praise and imitation of Posterity, this Lady, with her three Sisters, must grace our *English* Records, and be remembered, when others shall be lost in the Grave of Oblivion, and have their Beings effac'd among the Rubbish of Forgetfulness.

F I N I S.

B  L

(3)
relations. I shall therefore discourse of
Rex, which I have told him, that
as my Lord Aragon has all the soli-
dity of Judgment that is conspicuous
in the Noble Lord from whom he is
immediately descended. To the Lady
is not without those innate Virtues,
and that Sweetness of Temper which
her Father is famous for; and if do-
ing Works of Charity, providing for
the Necessitous, encouraging Arts and
Sciences, and acting all the good Of-
fices of Life, are things that will hand
down those that practice 'em to the
praise and imitation of Posterity, this
Lady, with her three Sisters, must
grace our *English* Records, and be
remembered, when others shall be
lost in the Grave of Oblivion, and
have their Beings effac'd among the
Rubbish of Forgetfulness.

F I N I S

B^C L

